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USSR NEEDS MORE BUILDING MATERIALS

FAILS TO EXPLOIT MOSCOW AREA DEPOSITS -- Moskovskaya Pravda, No 35, 31 Mar 50

In connection with the construction of tall, multistoried buildings in Moscow, there is great demand for facing materials. A number of large buildings have been faced with limestone from the Moscow area. This stone is weather-resistant and durable.

The Moscow area is rich in limestone and dolomite deposits, most of which are not inferior to marble. Moscow limestone is usually fine-grained; it is white with yellowish, bluish, or greyish shades.

Not one of the Moscow limestone or dolomite deposits is being exploited on a permanent basis. This tends to raise the cost of Moscow limestone, and makes it necessary for construction projects to obtain their facing materials from distant regions such as the Urals or the Estonian SSR.

MOLDAVIAN LIMESTONE QUARRIES TOP QUOTA -- Sovetskaya Moldaviya, No 22, 31 Jan 50

The "Sakhamen" Limestone Quarries in Rezina, Moldavian SSR, exceeded the January plan by 400 tons and shipped 42 carloads of limestone above plan.

TRANSCARPATHIAN MARBLE IN DEMAND -- Pravda Ukrainy, No 4, 5 Jan 50

The main deposits of Ukrainian marble are found in Transcarpathia, near the village of Delovoye, Rakhovskiy Okrug. The marble in these deposits is mainly white, and occasionally light blue or rose-colored. There is red and rose-colored marble with white veins in Tyachevskiy Okrug.

Transcarpathian marble is used as a building material by construction projects in Kiev, Minsk, L'vov, and other cities of the USSR. It is also used for inlays, steps, and slabs. The Kiev railroad station is faced with this type of marble.

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WORK NEW MARBLE QUARRY IN UZBEK SSR -- Pravda, No 9, 9 Jan 50

A marble quarry has been put into operation at the Gazgan deposit in Samarkand Oblast. Quarrying of white marble has begun.

ARMENIAN TUFF QUARRIES LAG -- Kommunist, No 78, 1 Apr 50

Since the war, stone output in the quarries of "Artiktuf," Armenian SSR, has more than doubled as compared with prewar years. However, the present production rates do not meet the growing demands of construction work. The tuff quarries completed 95 percent of the 1949 plan and only 60 percent of the plan for the first 2½ months of 1950, which shows that "Artiktuf" is seriously lagging behind other enterprises.

One of the reasons for the production lag is inadequate mechanization. Stone-cutting machines in the quarries operate intermittently; the machines are in poor condition and repairs are unsatisfactory. The automatic crane is out of order because of improper handling.

The Ministry of Construction Materials Industry Armenian SSR has given "Artiktuf" very little aid and supervision.

WORLD'S LARGEST GYPSUM MINE OPERATES STALINOGORSK -- Promyshlennost' Stroitel'nykh Materialov, No 11, 12 Mar 50

A new gypsum mine has been put into operation near Stalinogorsk, in the Moscow Coal Basin. This is the largest mechanized gypsum-mining enterprise in the world. Until recently, the largest gypsum mine was supposedly located in Canada. The capacity of the Stalinogorsk gypsum mine is twice that of the Canadian mine, and it has no equal as far as technical equipment is concerned. With the operation of this mine, the Soviet gypsum industry has made enormous progress toward complete mechanization.

Gypsum is an excellent material which is used for many purposes, including production of cement, fertilizers, dry plaster, partition walls, hollow blocks, cornices, ceiling girders, sheathing boards, and numerous other construction parts. The use of gypsum products in construction has considerably reduced the amount of manual labor and has improved the quality of construction.

The Stalinogorsk gypsum mine has been exceeding production quotas since the first days of its operation and the output is steadily increasing; the mine is now producing several hundred tons per 24-hour period. It is expected that this mine will soon produce a quantity of gypsum equal to the present output of the entire gypsum industry. A second unit of the mine is to be put into operation during the summer.

Next to the mine, a large combine which is to produce dry plaster is now under construction, and is to begin operating in 1950. An important center of construction materials industry will develop in the neighborhood of the coal basin.

KARELO-FINNISH SSR HAS LARGE SOAPSTONE DEPOSITS -- Leninskoye Zamyay, No 85, 28 Apr 50

The Karelo-Finnish SSR is rich in deposits of talc-chlorite, which has been used in the past mainly for the manufacture of electric insulation plates. However this mineral, also called soapstone, is one of the best materials for facing monumental buildings.

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TRIPOLI DEPOSITS NEAR MOSCOW NOT EXPLOITED -- Vechernyaya Moskva, No 100, 27 Apr 50

There are large deposits of tripoli (or diatomite) in various parts of the USSR, including Kamyshlov and Irbit in the Urals, and the Moscow area. This material is used mainly for brick and tile production. Diatomite is also used for filter materials, for polishing metals and stones, in the rubber industry, in the production of soap, Portland cement, plaster, and for other purposes. Tripoli products can be used successfully as insulation for ceilings and floors.

Tripoli is a good material for construction bricks. This type of brick is in many ways superior to clay brick. It is lighter, less heat-conducting, and has the same strength as clay brick. Artificial drying of unfired clay bricks takes 4-5 days, whereas tripoli bricks can be dried in 1 or 2 days. Transport costs are much lower for tripoli bricks.

There are considerable deposits of tripoli about 60 kilometers from Moscow, in the area of Khot'kovo Station on the Yaroslavl' Railroad Line. The deposits reach a thickness of 25 meters. They are covered with a 2-3 meter layer of good clay, which can be used for brick production. The tripoli deposits extend as far as Dmitrov and probably even farther. From one hectare of these deposits with a depth of 10 meters, up to 50 million bricks could be obtained. However, the Moscow deposits have not yet been exploited by the construction materials industry, although several attempts were made in this direction.

DISCOVER NEW MINERAL -- Ogonek, No 15, 9 Apr 50

A new type of mineral, called "lomonosovit," was recently added to the list of known minerals. Geologist V. I. Gerasimovskiy discovered this mineral in pegmatites consisting of feldspar, quartz, etc. "Lomonosovit" crystallizes in small, oblong flakes, colored from dark-brown to black. It is rich in phosphorus and can be easily melted with a blowtube, thereby changing into glass of a light-brown color.

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